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REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 4-29 MAY 1992

Rapporteur: Mr Luis ESPADA-PLATET (United States)

DRAFT DECISION

Country programming and mid-term reviews

The Governing Council,

Recalling decisions 88/17 of 1 July 1988 and 89/11 of 24 February 1989,

Taking note of the country programmes presented for approval by the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session,

Reaffirming the need for the Administrator to carry out mid-term reviews of (a) all country programmes and (b) all regional, interregional and global programmes,

1. Welcomes the clearer, more structured form of country programme documents prepared by the Administrator for consideration by the Council at its thirty-ninth session;

2. Requests the Administrator to include in mid-term review documents a brief analysis of:

(a) Levels of national execution, together with experience gained;

(b) United Nations Development Programme assistance in national capacity-building at the policy and programme formulation, management and evaluation levels;

(c) Experience with the new support costs arrangements, including problems encountered in their implementation;

(d) Experience with the programme approach, including the use of alternative programme support mechanisms and the extent to which it has changed the focus of the country programme;

3. Requests the Administrator to include in future country programme documents:

(a) More consistent information on lessons learned from previous programming cycles and mid-term reviews, especially the areas discussed in paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (d) of the present decision;

(b) More comprehensive indicators of performance;

4. Also requests the Administrator to continue to increase the focus of country programmes on a smaller number of concentration areas according to recipient country needs, taking into account the comparative advantages of the United Nations Development Programme;

5. Invites the Administrator to submit to the Governing Council at its special session in 1993 a tentative timetable for the various mid-term reviews to be carried out in the years 1993-1995, together with his proposals on how he will report on the outcomes of the reviews, bearing in mind decision 89/11 of 24 February 1989;

6. Requests the Administrator to report to the Governing Council at its [fortieth] session on progress achieved in the harmonization of programme cycles and programming procedures among members of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy;

7. Requests the Administrator, in this connection, to increase his efforts to stagger the scheduling of country programmes throughout the programming cycle;

8. Stresses that the six priority themes established in decision 90/34 of 23 June 1990 should be taken into account in the formulation of national capacity-building assistance strategies, but need not necessarily form the primary areas of concentration of United Nations Development Programme-assisted programmes and projects;

9. Decides that the Administrator's note on individual country programmes will be prepared for submission presentation to the Governing Council only when necessary.